

Recycling and Refuse Management Committee
Minutes from 5/06/10 meeting, 4:30 pm

Present: Meg Vickery, Chair; Susan Waite, DPW Liaison; Lucy McMurrer; Greg Keochakian, Sterling Bush, Jean Murray (visiting) Roy Wright (visiting)

April 1, 2010 minutes approved with minor changes.

Roy Wright, visiting from Montreal, Canada, spoke about changes in regulations in Canada which have had significant negative effects on effective waste management programs including recycling which was very thorough in prior administrations..

Trash-Free Lunch Day:

TFLD was a huge success. The combined trash weight of all schools amounted to less than 5 lbs.

Sustainability Festival:

In general the feedback was positive. High school students helped with advertising efforts. The Eco-Hero hunt had 35 participants. The new banner was well received and very prominent. Members from this committee were asked to make a financial donation for the production of this new banner to cover the costs.

Bottle Bill Report:

Masspirg went to the select board to solicit support for an expansion of the bottle bill. Guilford Mooring wants to see proceeds from this expansion to go to solid waste reduction efforts. Amherst is urging for legislation to support local efforts involved in making recycling an important part of the town's vision. 140 communities have expressed their support which amounts to 75% of Massachusetts citizens.

Create Expanded Polystyrene Action Plan.

Roy Wright spoke of a law suit involving McDonald's in an effort to minimize the use of Styrofoam in their packaging. Going forward members will:

1. Try to find information relative to this case.
2. Compile updated information regarding the pricing of Styrofoam materials and their environmentally safe replacements.
3. Apply for a warrant before August (preparations for June meeting will involve procedural outlines)
4. Acquire deadline date for warrant (Susan)
5. Collect demonstration samples.
6. Prepare a written statement argument for distribution at next meeting.

Member Recruitment:

Several inquiries and expressions of interest have been fielded by Susan.

Ethics:

A reminder was given to the members of this committee in an effort to secure compliance with the new ethics training requirements. Information is available on the town website.

Bottle Bill:

Bottle bill discussion has been tabled for an opportunity in need of more time.

New Business:

Sterling Bush circulated information for waste handling alternatives once the South Hadley and Northampton landfills are closed.

Meeting adjourned 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Keochakian